



## **BCPT Young Researcher Nordic Prize 2020 in Basic & Clinical Pharmacology & Toxicology**

Anton Pottegård (AP) has been awarded the 2020 and first BCPT Young Researcher Nordic Prize in Basic & Clinical Pharmacology & Toxicology. AP is a pharmacist, and he graduated from University of Southern Denmark (SDU) in 2011 and became enrolled as a PhD student at SDU.

AP's field of research is pharmacoepidemiology, which is the study of drug use and drug effects in large populations, usually by observational methods. In a remarkably short time after his graduation, AP acquired all the technical and methodological skills in the challenging discipline of pharmacoepidemiology and demonstrated an extraordinary productivity. His PhD was submitted one year ahead of schedule, while at the same time AP authored or co-authored 25 other publications and built a large network. To this date, he has published 232 peer-reviewed articles (212 original articles and 20 reviews), of which he is the first author of 44 and last author of 65. He has published in JAMA, Annals of Intern Med, BMJ and JAMA Int Med, as well as high-ranking specialist journals such as Gut, AM J Epidemiol, Int J Epidemiol, Eur Urol. AP has been cited 2385 times and has an H-index of 25 (Web of Science, accessed June 2020). This is quite unusual for such a young researcher.

AP has been the principal or co-supervisor of more than 50 pharmacist Master's theses. He has been – or is – the principal or co-supervisor of 14 ongoing or completed PhD programs.

Two themes recur in AP's research:

- AP has published about 40 papers on drug-cancer association, some of which are included in his doctoral dissertation (defence in 2019). Among his special contributions are the study of the association between hydrochlorothiazide and skin cancer, studies on reverse causation problems in cancer epidemiology and a comprehensive review on methodological aspects.
- By registering drugs and outcomes at the population level, it is now possible to screen for associations between drugs and unexpected outcomes in big data, instead of relying on vigilant clinicians to report

suspected adverse drug reactions. AP has utilized this to perform a pioneering effort by screening the entire Cancer Register and the entire Drug Register for unknown associations.

AP has been intensively involved in the Danish Society for Pharmacoepidemiology (chairman) and in the International Society of Pharmacoepidemiology (education committee chair, chairman of the conference in Copenhagen 2022). In 2020, he coordinated the Danish Medicines Agency's establishment of an ambitious COVID-19 task force with a multi-source database for use in observational research. AP has made a significant contribution to teaching and infrastructure at SDU. He has been vice-chair (2017-2019) and now chair (2019-present) of the pharmacist education at SDU. He has extensive teaching experience in clinical pharmacy, in scientific writing and in research methodology.

Since 2017, AP has been an assistant editor for BCPT, and together with Tore Bjerregaard Stage he has authored the textbook "Practical Pharmacology" (FADL's Publishing). AP is true to his clinical pharmacist background. Over the past 2.5 years, AP has built up a clinical pharmacist research unit at the hospital pharmacy of Odense University Hospital with 10 employees and raised over DKK 6 million in external grants. This research unit is rapidly becoming a major institution in the field of drug deprescribing and clinical pharmacist interventions.

Denmark has never had a clinical pharmaceutical researcher of AP's caliber, and in AP's age group, there is hardly more than a small handful of clinical pharmacists in the world with similar impact. By awarding AP the BCPT Young Researcher Nordic Price, he will set an important example for future researchers within pharmacology.

Niels Jessen

Chairman of the Danish Society for Pharmacology

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